

  
**Rural District of Meriden.**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1941,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

**Warwickshire Combined Districts.**

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1, MILVERTON HILL,  
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December, 1942.

**To the Meriden Rural District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1941 ; it is again regretted that the Report should be so delayed.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is again only a short statement of fact with no comment. All the available information is, however, being kept for record and, if required, can be produced.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the Council and my colleagues,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,  
Medical Officer of Health.

## *Meriden Rural District.*

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### A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1941	...	...	00,000
Birth Rate	...	...	16.5
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	39
Death Rate	...	...	10.6
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes		— 2
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	59
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	38
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	133
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	2
,,     Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1
,,     Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	5

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### B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

*Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	22	54	76
Enteric Fever...	2	10	12
Tuberculosis	3	22	25
			113

### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—Table I. gives a summary of inspections.

1. (i) WATER.—11 samples of water from old wells were submitted to the Analyst, whose results showed that only 3 were of good quality.

### D. HOUSING.

Full particulars have been compiled and are being kept for Record purposes.

#### (b) *Housing Conditions.*

*General Observations.*—The position has by no means improved, and conditions exist which the Council would not have tolerated in previous years.

*Fitness of Houses.*—No representations were made during the year.

*Unhealthy Areas.*—No representations were made in respect of Clearance Areas.

### E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply.*—The interest of the Inspectors in the maintenance of a clean milk supply has been kept up, in spite of calls on their time due to the War. Defects in premises and methods were reported monthly, and improvements numbering 18 were effected. These included 1 new cowshed, 7 new cowshed floors, and improvements in lighting, ventilation and drainage in 6 instances.

Six producers have newly qualified during the year for Accredited Licences, making a total of 122 for the District.

Samples of milk were sent for Methylene Blue tests ; out of 21, 10 were good. Where bad samples were found advice was given and further samples proved satisfactory.



F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

*Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1933.*

		Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1934	...	—	59	77	—	58	—	1
1935	...	—	56	78	—	55	—	1
1936	...	—	69	118	—	36	—	1
1937	...	—	98	46	—	57	—	4
1938	...	—	54	36	—	58	—	4
1939	...	—	41	39	—	42	—	5
1940	...	—	34	62	2	55	1	7
1941	...	—	60	47	4	73	—	2

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1941.

*Diphtheria Immunisation.*—The campaign for the immunisation of School children commenced during the year, and up to the 31st December 2,367 children had been treated in the Schools, and 173 either privately or at Infant Welfare Centres, making a total in all of 2,540.

*School Closures.*

Lea Marston, 6th to 20th Jan. Measles.  
 St. Paul's, Coleshill, 4th to 18th Mar. Measles.  
 St. Edward's, Coleshill, 19th Feb. to 10th Mar. Measles.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
AGE—PERIODS			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—
5	...	...	—	4	...	1	2	...	—	—
15	...	...	4	6	...	3	—	...	2	3
25	...	...	3	5	...	—	1	...	—	2
35	...	...	3	4	...	—	—	...	3	2
45	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	2	—
55	...	...	1	1	...	—	—	...	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	1	1	...	—	—	...	1	1
TOTALS			12	21	...	4	3	...	8	8
			—	—	...	—	—	...	—	—

*Treatment.*—20 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 13 were discharged.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

REPORT OF ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

Copies of these Reports have been received and kept for reference.

TABLE I.

## RURAL DISTRICT OF MERIDEN.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1941.

	Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	794	—	76	97
Lodging Houses ...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops ...	46	—	—	—
Cow Sheds ...	271	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	12	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses ...	81	—	—	—
Canal Boats ...	—	—	—	—
Ashpits and Privies ...	20	1	14	15
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	7	—	5	5
Water-closets ...	6	2	1	3
House Drainage ...	80	5	75	80
Water Supply ...	91	2	9	11
Pigsties ...	—	—	—	—
Animals improperly kept ...	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ...	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	—	—	22	22
Various Inspections ...	*4484	—	—	—
New Buildings ...	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	5892	10	202	233

	No.
Drain Tests : Other than Water ...	—
Unwholesome Meat condemned... ..	13
Samples of Food taken for Analysis (Milk) ...	—
Ditto of Food found adulterated ...	—
Ditto of Water taken for Analysis ...	11
Ditto of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	6

## PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed ...	1
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	133
Schools ditto ditto ditto ...	—

F. T. KENYON, Sanitary Inspector.

\* Includes billeting visits.

TABLE II.  
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1941 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1935	26,680	443	16.6	19	43	272	10.2
1936	27,090	473	17.5	20	42	280	10.4
1937	27,540	464	16.9	21	45	294	10.7
1938	27,980	519	18.6	24	46	268	9.6
1939	—	—	17.5	—	55	—	9.5
1940	—	—	17.4	—	59	—	13.2
1941	—	—	16.5	—	59	—	10.6



TABLE III.—MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE  
YEAR 1941.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox ... ..										
Plague ... ..										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	60	.....	17	29	6	7	1	.....	55	1
Erysipelas ... ..	23	.....		1	6	5	8	3		
Scarlet Fever ... ..	47	.....	16	19	5	7			36	
Typhus Fever ... ..										
Enteric Fever ... ..	4	.....	1	1	1	1				
Pneumonia ... ..	73	7	15	10	7	14	19	11		18
Malaria ... ..										
Dysentery ... ..										
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	2	.....			1	1				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	7	1	1	2	1	2				2
Poliomyelitis ... ..	1	.....		1						
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										
Polio-Encephalitis ... ..										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	33	.....		4	10	15	2	2		18
Other forms of Tuberculosis	7	.....		3	3	1				
Totals ... ..	257	8	49	70	40	53	30	16	91	39

TABLE IV  
MERIDEN RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1941.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes ... ..	187	190
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	.....	.....
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	.....	2
3 Scarlet Fever ... ..	.....	.....
4 Whooping Cough ... ..	.....	1
5 Diphtheria ... ..	1	.....
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	9	9
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	.....	.....
8 Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	.....	.....
9 Influenza ... ..	3	3
10 Measles ... ..	2	.....
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	.....	.....
12 Ac. Infant Enceph. ... ..	.....	.....
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.) ... ..	2	2
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod. ... ..	3	2
15 Cancer of Breast ... ..	.....	8
16 Cancer, other Sites ... ..	12	15
17 Diabetes ... ..	3	5
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	10	19
19 Heart Disease ... ..	40	38
20 Other Dis. C/rc. Sys. ... ..	2	2
21 Bronchitis ... ..	20	16
22 Pneumonia ... ..	7	11
23 Other Resp. Diseases ... ..	2	2
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod. ... ..	4	1
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	2	3
26 Appendicitis ... ..	2	1
27 Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	5	5
28 Nephritis ... ..	5	3
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis ... ..	.....	.....
30 Other Maternal Causes ... ..	.....	2
31 Premature Birth ... ..	6	4
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	4	5
33 Suicide ... ..	.....	.....
34 Road Traffic Accidents ... ..	14	4
35 Other Violent Causes ... ..	10	8
36 All Other Causes ... ..	19	19